

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully reviewing the present application and indicating that claims 3-5 contain allowable subject matter. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims Amendments/Status

By way of this reply, independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended to recite “filling part is not extended to an upper palm portion below the ring and little fingers.” These claim amendments find solid support in Figs. 1 and 11 and the associated text of the original specification. No new matter has been introduced through these amendments.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

1. Claims 1, 2, 6-7, 9-12, and 14-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,164,841 (“Burtoff”). This rejection is traversed for the reasons presented below.

Amended independent claims 1 and 11 recite, in part, “filling part formed on a region corresponding to a groove between a thumb and an index finger” and “filling part is not extended to an upper palm portion below the ring and little fingers.” According to one or more embodiments, a filling part is provided on a region, including a groove between a thumb and an index finger and the thenar of the thumb, while the filling part is not extended to the upper palm portion below the ring and little fingers (see, e.g., Fig. 1). Given these features, a golfer can hold a tight grip of the golf club without exerting an excessive force on the thumb and index finger portions of the hand, thereby improving the golfer’s swing mechanism.

Burtoff relates to protective gloves. In the instant Office Action, the Examiner equates the protective rings 2 and the protective hand piece 3 of Burtoff with the filling part as claimed. However, Figs. 1-3 of Burtoff show that the protective rings 2 and the protective hand piece 3 are *not* formed on a groove between the thumb and the index finger. Further, Figs. 2 and 3 show that the protective hand piece 3 is extended to the upper palm portion below the ring and little fingers.

As such, Burtoff fails to show or suggest at least “filling part formed on a region corresponding to a groove between a thumb and an index finger” and “filling part is not

extended to an upper palm portion below the ring and little fingers,” as required by independent claims 1 and 11, and thus claims 1 and 11 are patentable over Burtoff. Claims depending therefrom are also patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

2. Claims 1, 7-8, 11, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,168,578 (“Stanley”). This rejection is traversed for the reasons presented below.

As noted above, amended independent claims 1 and 11 recite, in part, “filling part is not extended to an upper palm portion below the ring and little fingers.”

With respect to Stanley, the Examiner asserts that the spacing means 27 and the padding 29 correspond to the filling part as claimed. As is clear in Figs. 2-3 and 5 of Stanley, however, the spacing means 27 and the padding 29 are formed on the upper palm portion below the ring and little fingers. This is because the gloves of Stanley are designed to assist a batter in gripping a baseball bat (see col. 3, lines 42-54, col. 4, line 1-31, etc.). Therefore, in Stanley, the padding 29 is formed on the entire upper palm portion, as opposed to the claimed invention. As such, Stanley does not show or teach at least “filling part is not extended to an upper palm portion below the ring and little fingers,” as required by independent claims 1 and 11.

In view of the above, Stanley fails to show or suggest all of the features of claims 1 and 11, and thus claims 1 and 11 are patentable over Stanley. Claims depending therefrom are also patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicants' attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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